

GARUDA

A pleasure of similar intensity not leave my heart, when I meditate upon the Self of the all-pervading one (Vishnu). A reader of all the Vedas, a knower of all the philosophies is but the worst of fools, if he is not devoted to Vishnu. He, who has faith in Him and is devoted to His service, has practised all pieties, even without studying the Vedas or celebrating any religious sacrifice* The foremost of the holy sages do not attain to that elevated status by the study of all the Vedas, or by celebrating the most meritorious of religious sacrifices, as they do through the merit of simple faith in* and unflinching devotion to, Vishnu. Even a man, who is not true to the duties of his social order, or misbehaves himself, if he becomes a Vaishnava, purifies all the regions, like the full-riser^ thousand* rayed sun. Even miscreants* who are addicted to vice and wicked acts, come by the highest bliss, if they become -devoted to Vishnu. Pleasures of celestial life appear insignificant and inglorious to one* who has a strong and loving faith in Janirdana, inasmuch as* such a faith is but the precursor to one's emancipation (Mukti). To persons, who wander about in this dreadful valley of life^ where each act spins out a new destiny for, man, the only thing, which, can be easily caught hold of with the hand, is the faith-appeased Janirdanai He, who does not hear of the glories of the discus-wielding deity-, is really deaf and is & spiritual outcast He, whose bodily hairs do not stand on

their roots in ecstasy while engaged in singing
 the psalms of
 Janirdana, is indeed a carcase. O thou
 foremost of the
 twice-born ones, what wonder that sins of a
 man will be
 extinguished by contemplating Vishnu,
 when by such a
 contemplation he comes by emancipation.
 Yama, the lord of
 death, seeing his emissaries ready to bind the
 Souls of Vaish~
 navas with their nooses, says to them : " Leave
 them alone,
 O ray emissaries, I have power 6Ver all nh»n
 except those
 wno a*,e devoted .to Vishnu." Even if the worst
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